

An antique brass compass with a ring at the top, resting on a blue-toned map. The compass face shows degree markings and a needle. Several red pushpins are scattered across the map in the background.

Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap: *Charting Progress*

The Maine Elder Justice Roadmap:

*An initiative of the
**Maine Elder Justice
Coordinating
Partnership***

This presentation provides a brief overview of:

- How the Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership came into being
- How it built Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap
- **PROGRESS** made on Top Priority Recommendations in the Roadmap



Maine's history of collaboration re: Elder Justice

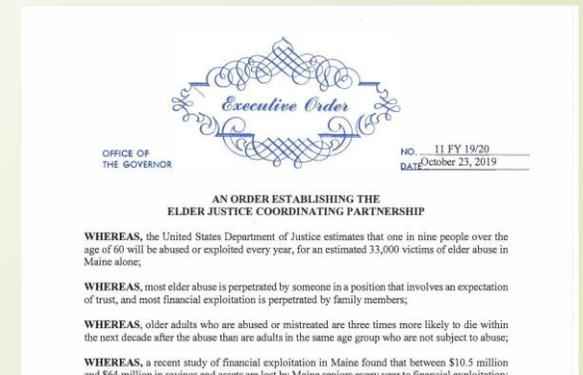
- ▶ Regional **Elder Abuse Task Forces** have been in place for nearly two decades in some parts of the state (York County, Tri-County, Greater Augusta)
- ▶ In 2011, the **Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention** was formed to raise awareness and provide training and support
- ▶ In 2014, then Maine Attorney General Janet Mills formed a **Task Force on Financial Exploitation of the Elderly**

Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership history

A **federal Elder Justice Roadmap** was published in 2014

In 2019, Legal Services for Maine Elders obtained support from the John T. Gorman Foundation for an effort that would be modeled loosely on this federal Roadmap

On October 23rd of 2019, Governor Mills formed the **Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership** via Executive Order with the charge of submitting an “Elder Justice Roadmap” no later than December 8th, 2021.



Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership Membership

- Multi-Disciplinary
- Public/Private Partnership – one Co-chair from each sector
- 21 members





EJCP Members

PUBLIC SECTOR

Co-chair: Maine Office of Securities

Maine Chiefs of Police Association

Maine Department of Health and Human Services,
including representatives from:

Adult Protective Services

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Division of Licensing and Certification

Office of Aging and Disability Services

Office of Behavioral Health

Office of Child and Family Services

Maine Department of Public Safety

Maine Office of the Attorney General

Maine Prosecutors' Association

Maine Sheriffs' Association

Maine State Police

United States Attorney's Office

PRIVATE SECTOR

Co-chair: Legal Services for Maine Elders

Elder Abuse Institute of Maine

Maine's Area Agencies on Aging

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program



Purpose of EJCP

Identify

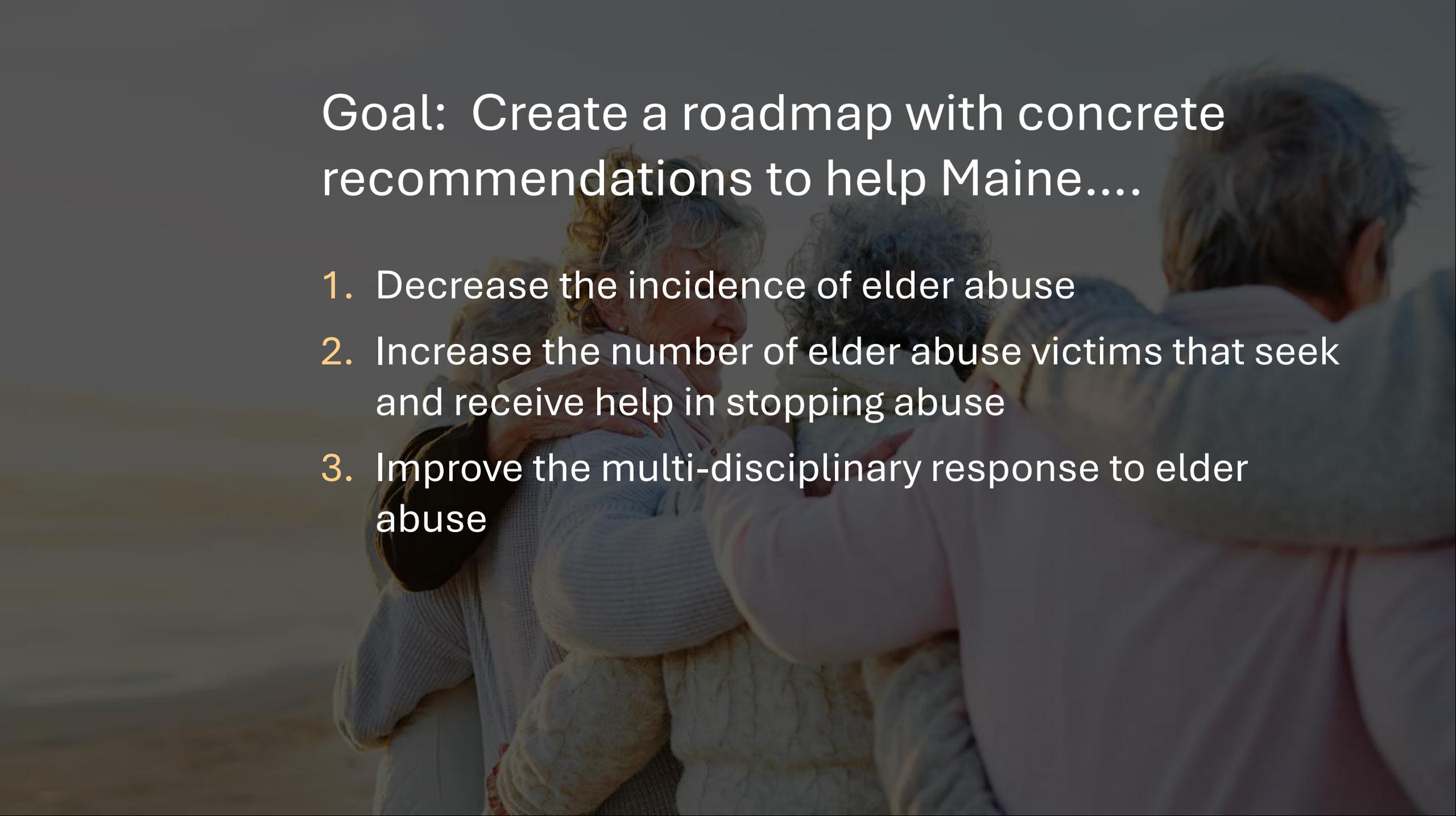
Identify challenges to the prevention of, detection of, and response to elder abuse

Develop

Develop strategic priorities across the public and private sectors to prevent and respond to elder abuse

Make

Make recommendations regarding direct services, education, public policy, and data collection and evaluation

A group of elderly people, including a woman with white hair and a man with grey hair, are embracing each other on a beach at sunset. The scene is warm and emotional, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a soft, golden glow. The people are wearing light-colored clothing, and the overall atmosphere is one of care and support.

Goal: Create a roadmap with concrete recommendations to help Maine....

1. Decrease the incidence of elder abuse
2. Increase the number of elder abuse victims that seek and receive help in stopping abuse
3. Improve the multi-disciplinary response to elder abuse



Process for
building
Maine's
Elder Justice
Roadmap

EJCP members and key stakeholders were surveyed

Survey resulted in the identification of strengths, gaps and challenges, and best practices in the **four key areas of focus:**

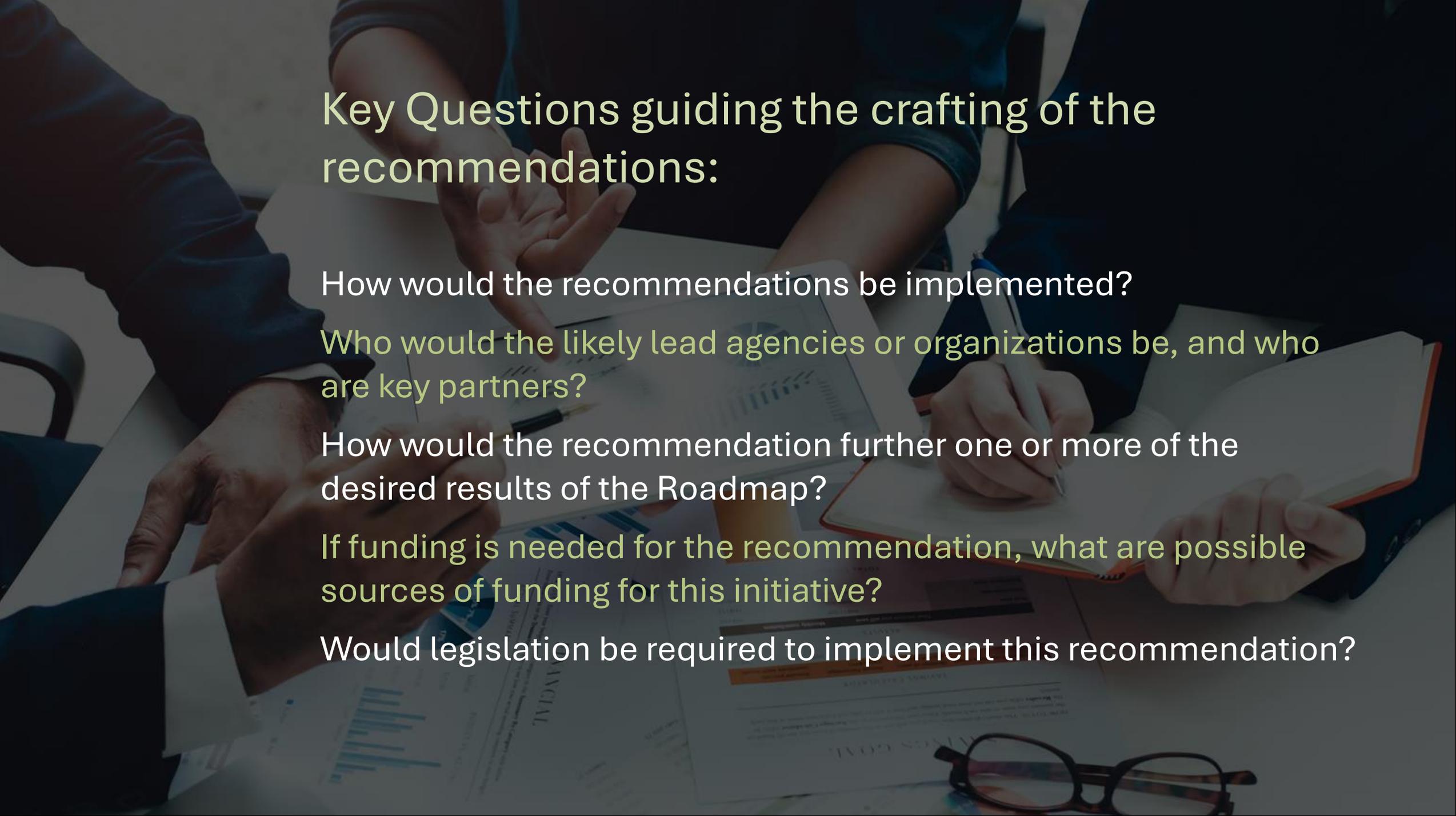
1. **Direct Victims Services**
2. **Public and Professional Education**
3. **Public Policy**
4. **Data Collection and Evaluation**

2021: A series of facilitated meetings

Rigorous process of:

- Reviewing survey results
- Small breakout group conversations
- Create lists of action items
- Generate a set of discrete recommendations



A group of people are gathered around a table in a meeting. Their hands are visible, pointing at documents and a notebook. The documents contain charts and text. A pair of glasses is on the table in the foreground. The background is dark and out of focus.

Key Questions guiding the crafting of the recommendations:

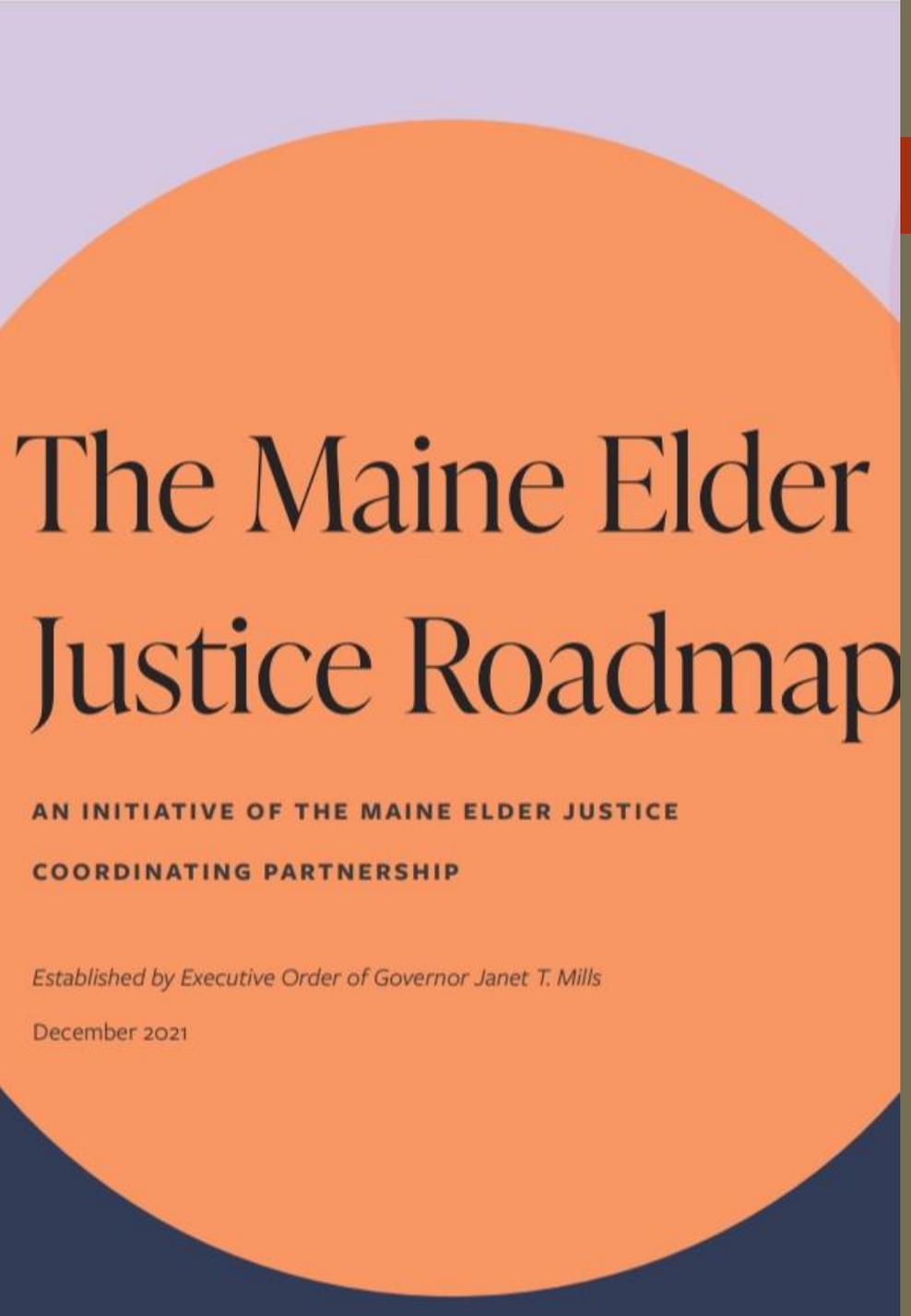
How would the recommendations be implemented?

Who would the likely lead agencies or organizations be, and who are key partners?

How would the recommendation further one or more of the desired results of the Roadmap?

If funding is needed for the recommendation, what are possible sources of funding for this initiative?

Would legislation be required to implement this recommendation?



The Maine Elder Justice Roadmap

AN INITIATIVE OF THE MAINE ELDER JUSTICE
COORDINATING PARTNERSHIP

Established by Executive Order of Governor Janet T. Mills

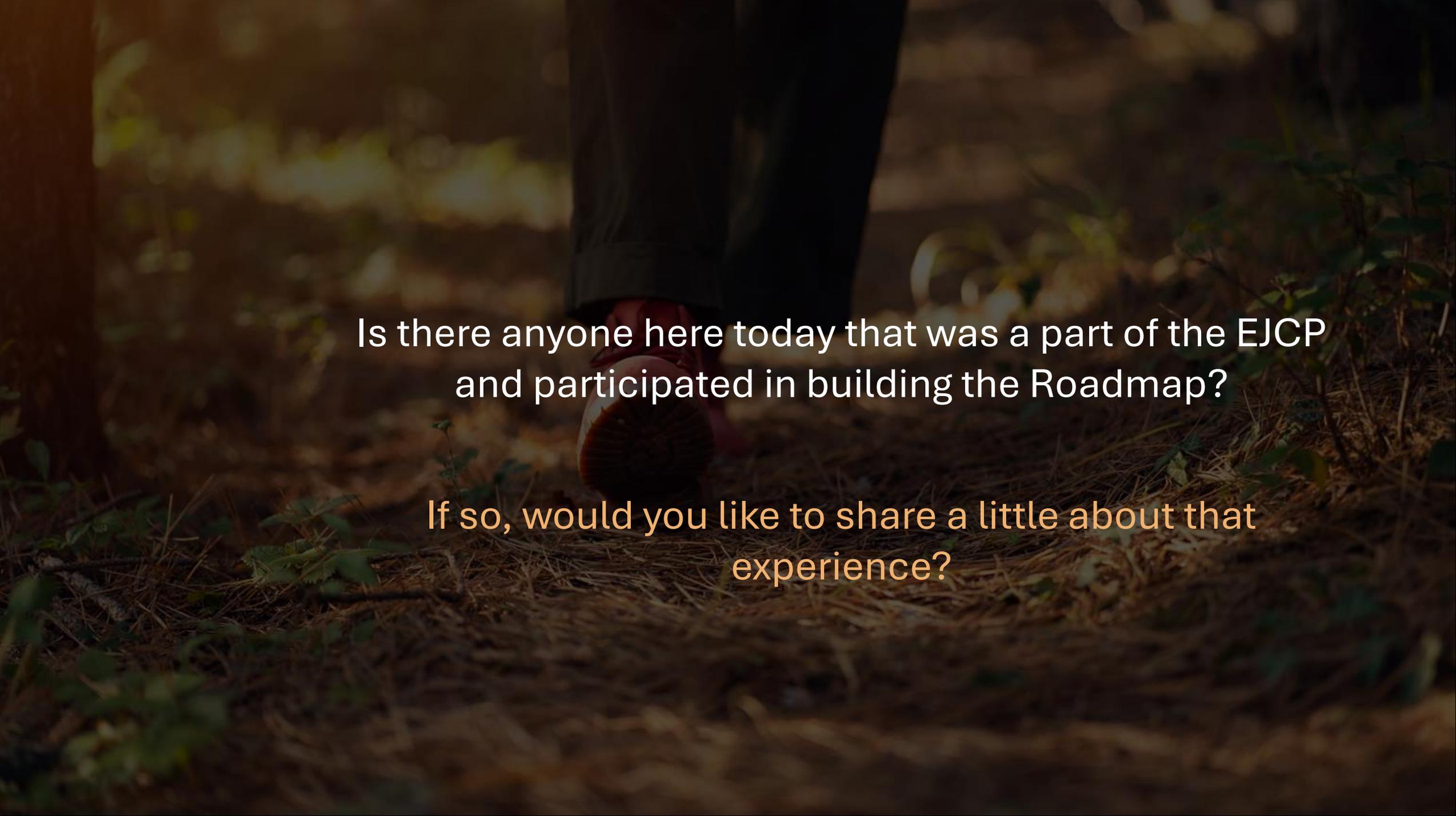
December 2021



Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap
was presented to the Governor in
December 2021



Released, publicly, by Governor
Mills on February 4th, 2022

A photograph of a person's legs and feet in a forest setting. The person is wearing dark trousers and red sneakers. They are standing on a path covered with dry pine needles and some green plants. The background is a blurred forest scene with trees and foliage. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor environment.

Is there anyone here today that was a part of the EJCP
and participated in building the Roadmap?

If so, would you like to share a little about that
experience?

Recommendation Types:

TOP PRIORITY (15): Recommendations with broad agreement among members that have high probability of successful implementation and high impact on elder abuse.

SECONDARY (22): Recommendations that were broadly supported by the members but that were viewed as having less potential impact than the Top Priority or a lower probability of success if implemented.

FOR FURTHER STUDY (7): Recommendations that require further information, input, and analysis before a determination as to the impact of the recommendation can be made.

A photograph of a field of tall, thin grasses and yellow flowers, possibly irises, under a clear blue sky. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a soft, natural feel. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Progress
made on
TOP PRIORITY
Roadmap Recommendations



Direct Victim Services

RECOMMENDATION: Examine the staffing capacity at Adult Protective Services.

RESULT: APS has added, at least, ten new positions since the Roadmap was built.

RECOMMENDATION: Develop and expand wraparound support services, including case management services, for victims of elder abuse based upon Adult Protective Services pilot.

RESULT: The Elder Service Connections program, a partnership between Elder Abuse Institute of Maine and APS, has expanded significantly and funding for the program was included in the State budget.



Direct Victim Services

RECOMMENDATION: Increase the staffing capacity at Legal Services for Maine Elders.

RESULT: Legal Services for Maine Elders received funding to increase staffing for general legal services – this did not include victims' services staffing.

RECOMMENDATION: Establish dedicated, statewide forensic auditing resources to support law enforcement in investigating financial exploitation cases.

RESULT: A financial investigator was hired for the criminal division of the Attorney General's office and started in the fall of 2024.



Direct Victim Services

RECOMMENDATION: Develop hub and spoke style investigative resources to increase specialized investigative resources and improve the response to elder abuse.

RESULT: In December 2024, the Justice Assistance Council approved use of unspent grant funds for a pilot of the Hub and Spoke project to be launched in 2025. This pilot will have a geographical focus on Central and Southern Maine.



Public and Professional Education

RECOMMENDATION: Add specific elder abuse investigator training to the offerings from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, similar to what specialized domestic violence investigators receive.

RESULT: Under the leadership of the Commissioner of Public Safety, conversations are underway with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to map a process for developing this training.

RECOMMENDATION: Expand and enhance training of Adult Protective Services staff and community partners.

RESULT: Maine APS staff have been working through a national APS training platform that has a core curriculum of 23 modules.



Public and Professional Education

RECOMMENDATION: Mandate training for mandatory reporters and enhance the trainings given to individuals and groups by Adult Protective Services on mandatory reporting responsibilities.

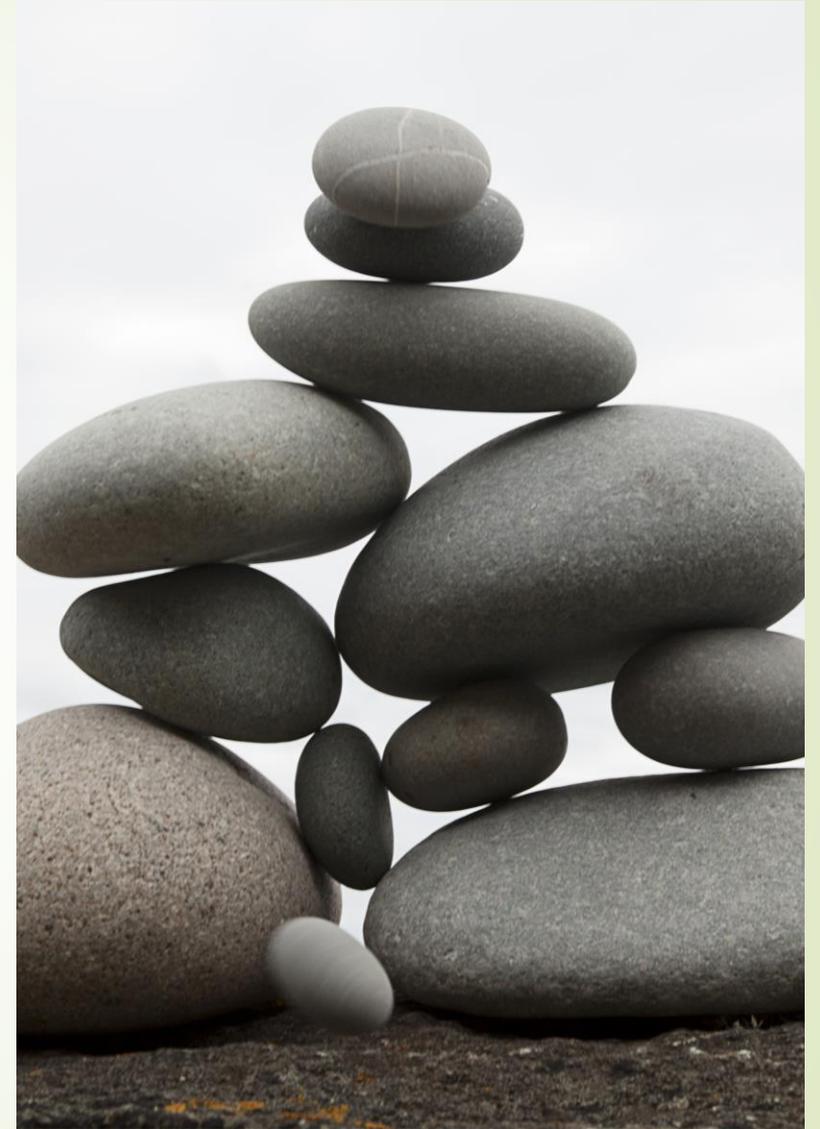
RESULT: In 2023, a training requirement regarding individuals mandated to report abuse, neglect or exploitation was added into law: they must complete approved training once every four years.

Adult Protective Services offers an on-line, on-demand training for mandated reporters.

Public Policy

RECOMMENDATION: Regularly convene the Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership to monitor and guide implementation of the Roadmap.

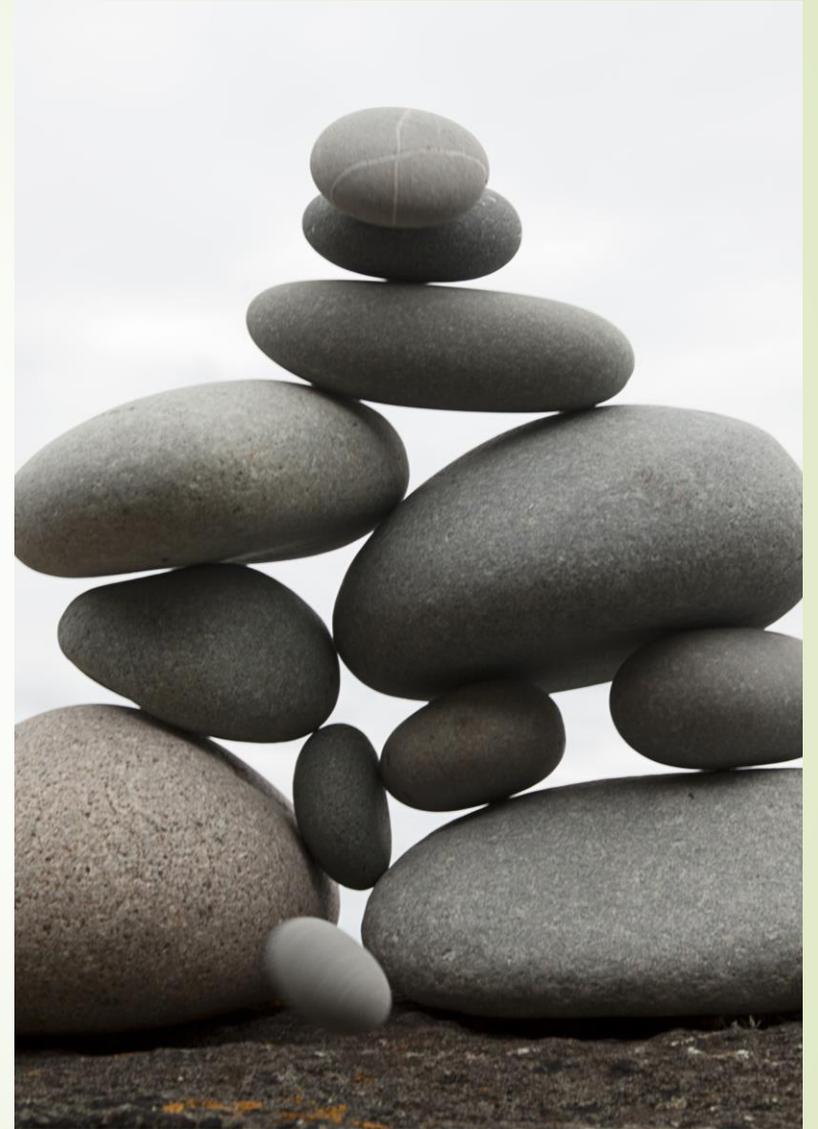
RESULT: The EJCP has continued to meet quarterly since the Roadmap was built.



Public Policy

RECOMMENDATION: Add an attorney's fee provision to the Improvident Transfer of Title Act.

RESULT: In this legislative session, Legal Services for Maine Elders has introduced bill LD 1027, "*An Act to Strengthen the Law Regarding Relief for Improvident Transfers of Title.*" The goal of this bill is to make a simple change to the statute.





Data Collection and Evaluation

RECOMMENDATION: Examine capacity and resource needs in order to publish an annual report of Adult Protective Services (APS) data and analyze APS data to identify trends and patterns and develop ongoing recommendations for system improvement.

RESULT: APS has contracted with the Catherine Cutler Institute at the University of Southern Maine to produce its annual report. The most recent report came out in 2024.

RECOMMENDATION: Create a Maine Criminal Justice Academy minimum standard on data collection for law enforcement. Create and implement a document that law enforcement fills out to capture data on older victims.

RESULT: In the fall of 2024, there was an initial meeting to explore this recommendation.



The Maine Elder Justice Roadmap

Is **122 pages** in length

Every recommendation: Top Priority, Secondary, For further study are flushed out in these categories:

- Implementation
- **Leaders** and Partners
- Achieving Results
- Funding and Legislation

Wonderfully **comprehensive document** to move recommendations forward!

Ongoing work:

The “leaders” of the recommendations have continued the work of implementation.

Focus has been on Top Priority and Secondary recommendations.

Since 2022, the EJCP has met quarterly to review progress on recommendations.

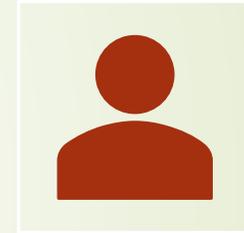
Fall 2023: Grant Opportunity to provide staff support for the EJCP



Grant through National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions



Timeframe: 10/2023 – 09/2025



Allow EJCP to hire a Project Coordinator to assist in moving recommendations forward

Questions?

Please contact:

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